(b) The Ministry has worked out a comprehensive strategy which includes provision of financial assistance upto Rs. One lakh to SSI Associations who have initiated anti-dumping investigations, a panel of experts who can be referred for issues concerning anti-dumping, information dissemination through twenty Anti dumping Workshops all over the country, etc.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to enhance exports by the Small Scale Industries under the Market Development Assistance Scheme include financial assistance for participation in international exhibitions, overseas study tours, assistance towards the production of publicity material, market studies, etc.

Financial Package for Small Scale Industries Sector

4280. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to provide financial package for the small scale industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the small scale sector is on the verge of collapse due to non protection by Government ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the extent to which financial package by Planning Commission to small scale sector is going to help and rejuvenate it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Perhaps the reference is to the recommendations of the "Study Group on Development of Small Scale Enterprises" constituted by the Planning Commission in May, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. This Study Group has recommended amongst others, the creation of funds of :—

(i) Rs. 2000 crores for adequate infastructure fracilities to small scale enterprises;

(ii) Rs. 1000 crore for establishment of Incubation Centres;

(iii) Rs. 5000 crores under technology upgradation and modernisation fund with an interest subsidy of five percent; and

(iv) Rs. 500 crore as a special venture capital type fund named as "Laghu Udyog Nirman Nidhi" for equity support.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(c) A number of recommendations of the Study Group have since been implemented through a Comprehensive Policy Package for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) Sector announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package for SSIs will strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Damage to SSI Units for Earth Quake in Gujarat

†4281. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether small scale industries and cottage industries have suffered heavy damage due to recent devastating earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the total damage caused in this regard; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government for development of affected small scale industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the latest information received from Government of Gujarat, 9,736 Small Scale Industries and 34,358 Cottage Industries have suffered damages due to the recent devastating earthquake. The total estimated damage buffered by these industries are Rs. 40574.2 lakhs and Rs. 7714 lakhs respectively. In addition, 1444 Small Salt Units are reported to be affected.

(c) A Central relief/rehabilitation package for SSI units affected in Gujarat earthquake has been announced on 16th May, 2001 by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries. The package comprises a total assistance of Rs. 376.55 crores from various Agencies viz., Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) besides, under the Central Plan Schemes, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.